

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

May Meeting

***All Things Field Day
by Jim Peterson, K6EI***

**Wednesday, May 10
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross,
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at www.wvara.org/meetings.html

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html.

Visitors Are Welcome!

President's Letter

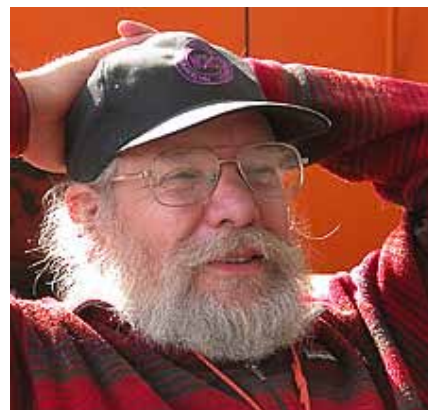
The DX is Really Better in the East

The last couple of days, I've been sitting in the family house in Peterborough, New Hampshire answering CQs on 20M PSK using a KX3 at 10 watts into a 2 element wire beam at 6 meters. While band conditions have been OK, they are nowhere as good as they were a couple of years ago.

Looking back in my log, there were 7 QSOs with stations in the US, mostly in the south and midwest, with one outlier in Palo Alto, California. There were 15 QSOs with DX stations in Central and Western Europe with one outlier in Central America.

When we talk about the ones that got away, I had good copy from stations in Jordan, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Azores, and Belgium, but couldn't beat the European stations in the pileups. All of this with about 4.5 hours of operating time.

If I were operating from Los Gatos using the same equipment for the same amount of time, I might have DX contacts with Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada. I'd probably have contacts with



more states, but I probably wouldn't have amassed 22 QSOs in that short amount of time.

Moral of the story: When you visit the East Coast, take a portable rig and rack up some DX contacts.

73 Bill AE6JV

Meeting Topic - May 10 ***All Things Field Day by Jim Peterson, K6EI***

Mark your calendar. This upcoming Wednesday (7pm, May 10) will be our annual "All Things Field Day" meeting. Field Day last year was a real hoot on Mora Hill, and this year may be even more fun. At this week's meeting Jim Peterson, K6EI, will review what's new and discuss WVARA's plans for this year's Field Day event (to be held June 23-25). In addition, Bill Fehring, W9KKN, will give us a tutorial on the N1MM+ logging software that we will be using this year.



Meeting Location: Meeting Room 5 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Most of us come in through the side entrance on the southwest side of the building — look for our red WVARA sign on the side where they park all the Red Cross trucks. Cookies will be served, and of course visitors are welcome!

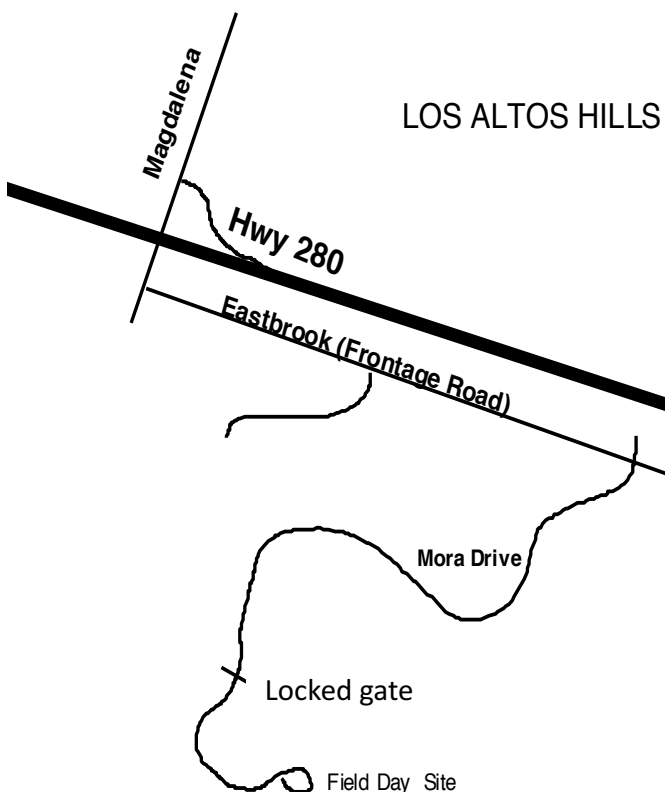
If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner at 6:00pm, just prior to the meeting, at Dish-n-Dash, 2551 N 1st St, which is only a block or two from the Red Cross.

Hope to see you there!

Bobby, KA4VBF

WVARA Field Day, June 23-25, 2017



WHAT: Field Day is a great opportunity to get outdoors, gain experience assembling equipment in the rough, and operate a station under challenging conditions. This year we will operate QRP (low power, 5 watts max) in the 13A Battery category with phone, CW, and digital HF stations as well as satellite ground station, a Get-On-the-Air station for visitors, and multiple VHF/UHF stations. To see details of our site last year, refer to: www.arrl.org/soapbox/view/9463

WHERE: This year's Field Day operation will be at the top of Mora Hill located in the San Antonio Open Space Reserve near the Magdalena exit off of Highway 280 in Los Altos Hills. This site overlooks the Silicon Valley from an elevation of 500 feet.

WHEN: We will be setting up on Friday, June 23. Field Day operations officially begin Saturday, June 24, at 11am and continue until 11am Sunday. Our goal is to keep all of the HF stations in operation the full 24 hours. Tear-down and packing activities will probably last from 11am until about 2pm Sunday afternoon.

If you have any questions, you can reach us via CQFieldDay@gmail.com or call Jim at 408 490-1185

Mark Your Calendar for Microwave Update 2017

(please forward to other interested groups and hams)

Microwave Update (fondly abbreviated as MUD) is the premier microwave amateur radio conference. This year it is being hosted by the 50 MHz and Up Group of Northern California (www.50mhzandup.org).

MUD 2017 will be the last weekend of October (10/26 gathering day, 10/27-28 presentations/dinner/etc, 10/29 morning flea market and farewells) at the Santa Clara Biltmore (Santa Clara, CA, near US 101 & Montague Expy), the same place as MUD 2012.

It's not too think about writing up your winter microwave projects ... we will be issuing a call for paper and presentations.

We haven't set up the www.microwaveupdate.org site for 2107 yet ... coming soon.

73 and BCNU at MUD 2017

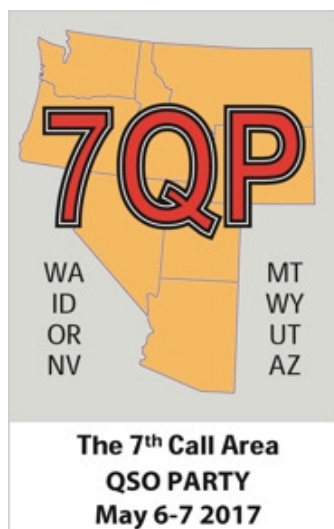
Mike Lavelle, K6ML

Jim Moss, N9JIM

MUD 2017 conference co-chairs

Bobby and Dave's Excellent Adventure (aka 2017 7QP)

By Bobby Barnett, KA4VBF



This past weekend, Dave Koberstein (N9DK) and I travelled out to the high desert of Nevada to participate in the 7th Call Area QSO Party. In an effort to try something new, we picked a different site from last year. As we got there, we found the last mile of road was blocked due to a rock slide and a few man made “can’t cross this” additions. Instead of hoofing all the gear a mile uphill, we retraced our tracks to a site we saw a mile earlier and setup camp at 6900’. After a nine hour drive, we were ready to get out of the car.

The big challenges for expeditions are always the antennas.



In an effort to keep things to a reasonable minimum, we setup a full size 80m dipole and an EndFedz Quad (40/20/15/10) on top of a few masts that have seen use at other WVARA activities. My trusty KX3/PX3/KXPA100

worked the radio end, and a laptop rounded out logging and PSK31 duties. Power was from 200w of solar panels laying on the ground and two 75Ah AGM Optima Blue batteries. Aside from a failed 12v laptop supply, the electronics were well behaved.

Last year, we entered the multi-operator, single-radio QRP class. That class was eliminated this year, so we turned up the power to 100w and kept all else the same. With a bright and early start at 6am, we started CQing. The weather was surprisingly warm and the airwaves were favorable. What starts with gusto often wanes by mid-cycle, and this day was no different. On several occasions, we struggled to stay awake, but just after dinner things got exciting. Though we had a reasonably good day on 40 and 20, when we



turned on 80 we found everyone and everyone found us. Our QSO rate tripled and so did our score. We suspect contributions from the weather, full dipole, and sunspot



cycle (chasing everyone lower) were all present, and we appreciated them all. In those few hours, we picked up 73 of our 206 total QSOs, across the east coast, Alaska, Hawaii, and all points in between. We also got blasted by LOTS of lightning, rain, snow, and hail, all of which happened within thirty minutes of the end of the contest.

In 2016, we scored a total of 11,448 from 83 QSOs. With one less antenna, 13dB more transmit power, and many other uncontrolled variables, we scored a total of 32,504 with 206 QSOs

across 68 of the 259 contest counties, 27 total states, Canada, Chile, Italy, Virgin Islands, and Japan.

We've thought up a rover approach to next year's event using Dave's minivan, instead of camping out of my intrepid Tonka Toy – but as it was, it was a weekend well spent. We were reminded of a couple things we all regularly take for granted:

- Get extra rest before a big activity. No amount of sugar or caffeine can compare to a good night's rest.
- The west is large...very large...and very beautiful.
- When you have an opportunity to go on an adventure, take it.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM					
Call Sign	Name	04/11/17	04/18/17	04/25/17	05/02/17
Total		16	18	12	14
AA6RB	Roy				X
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X	X	
AE6JV	Bill	X	X		
AF6AE	Bill			X	
AG6YL	Kevin	X	X		
AG6YO	Kevin	X	X	X	
AI6FN	Jin	X			
K0FRG	Bob	X	X	X	X
K6BIB	Bogdan	X			
K6BRF	Bert		X		
KE6MT	Rex		X		
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	X
KI6SLX	Peri	X	X		
KJ6CQJ	Dean				X
KJ6GMO	Sue				X
KJ6ZZI	Michael			X	X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KK6WRP	James		X	X	
KK6ZCT	Steve		X		
KM6FDD	Lloyd		X		
N6FYR	Matt	X		X	X
N6GD	Greg				X
N9CU	Andy	X	X	X	X
W6ESL	Tom	X	X		X
W6IA	Mark	X			X
W6PK	Phil		X		
W9KKN	Bill	X	X	X	
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
WC6YJ	Clay				X

Treasurer's Report

April was very quiet and there is nothing new to report. Peri KI6SLX.

Antennas ...

I have 3 beam antennas that need a good home and was wondering if I can donate them to you. Wife has finally put her foot down, so the other alternative is scrap.

I have a Cushcraft 4 EL 10m and a satellite 2m/70cm pair of crossed Yagi's (see pics).

Looking forward to hearing from you...
Brian AI6MK, brian_sadler at sbcglobal dot net



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